



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***KARNAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF HOUSING
Brings 30 Years Experience Assisting Low-income Families***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano named Fred Karnas Jr. as director of the Arizona Department of Housing. Karnas brings 30 years experience working with low-income men, women and children in Arizona and across the United States. He will replace Dr. Sheila Harris, who is leaving the department to revive her consulting company and pursue development opportunities in the private sector.

“Fred is a great addition to this administration. His expertise in low-income housing, homelessness and special needs will be an asset to Arizona as we continue to grow,” Governor Napolitano said. “He will have big shoes to fill with the departure of Sheila Harris, who greatly improved Arizona’s housing infrastructure these last six years.”

Karnas is currently the administrator of the new Center for Housing Affordability and Livable Communities for the Arizona Department of Housing. He began his career working for the Community Council staffing the city of Phoenix task force on homelessness. Then he was the first executive director of the Community Housing Partnership, a nonprofit housing corporation.

In 1995, he was named the first director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing for HUD. Two years later he served as HUD’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Program. After leaving HUD, Karnas consulted on AIDS housing and homelessness projects in the U.S. and Canada. From 2004 to 2006, he served as Governor Napolitano’s policy adviser on Urban Affairs and Community Development.

Fred Karnas has a bachelor’s degree in City Planning from the University of Virginia School of Architecture, a Master’s degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Ph.D. in Environmental Design and Planning from Virginia Tech.

Karnas will begin his service as director of Housing October 25. His bio is attached.

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